

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of a filter having a filter portion with a plurality of bag-like members, each bag-like member having ~~formed in~~ a container shape ~~having and each bag-like member having an opening that is disposed a predetermined distance away from another opening, with intervals therebetween in the filter portion~~ and a supporting member which supports a periphery of the opening of the bag-like members and connects each of the bag-like members, comprising:

preparing a forming die provided with a forming surface which is formed in a shape corresponding to that of one side of the filter; and

laminating fibers over the forming surface of the forming die, wherein the forming die is a permeable meshed die, the fibers are semi-molten when laminated over the forming surface of the die, the container shape includes at least one of a conical shape, polyangular conical shape, semispherical shape and a conical trapezoid shape.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the forming die is made of permeable meshed metal.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising moving the forming die at a constant speed with respect to a nozzle during the laminating step.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the fibers are laminated using a melt-blow method.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the fibers are laminated at a constant thickness over the forming die.

21. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the bag-like members are formed such that a center line thereof is orthogonal to the opening and a section parallel to the opening is circular or polygonal in shape and the supporting member has, on a plane surface of the supporting member, a plurality of straight portions that traverse the supporting member without interfering with any of the bag-like members with each straight portion intersecting with the other straight portions in at least one place each.

22. (New) A filter manufactured according to claim 15.